

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

May 11, 2026

5:30 P.M.

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, May 11, 2026.

The following were present:

Chairman James E. Haigler, who presided
Vice-Chairman Cecil Thornton
Councilman Richard Carson
Councilman Ken Westbury
Councilwoman Rebecca Bonnette
Administrator Richard Hall
Assistant Administrator/Clerk to Council Shayla Jenkins

The following press was notified of the meeting by mail, electronic mail, or by fax in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act: The Calhoun Times, The Times and Democrat, and Sandy Run News. An Agenda was also posted on Calhoun County's website calhouncounty.sc.gov.

Call to Order

Chairman Haigler called the meeting to order.

Invocation

Invocation was offered by Councilwoman Bonnette.

Approval of Agenda

Councilman Westbury made the motion to approve the May 11, 2026 meeting agenda as presented. Councilwoman Bonnette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

None

Public Hearings

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **Ordinance 2026-2** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO ALLOW FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CALHOUN COUNTY PROCUREMENT CODE. With there being no public comments, the Hearing was closed. **Third Reading of Ordinance 2026-2.** Councilwoman Bonnette made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2026-2 and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **Ordinance 2026-3** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 21 OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING THE CREATION AND DUTIES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. With there being no public comments, the Hearing was closed. **Third Reading of Ordinance 2026-3.** Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2026-3 and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April 27, 2026 Regular Meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Carson to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Proclamations

May 2026 as Building Safety Month was passed by Council. The motion was made by Councilman Carson, seconded by Councilman Westbury and passed unanimously.

May 17–23, 2026 as Emergency Medical Services Week was passed. The motion was made by Councilwoman Bonnette, seconded by Councilman Westbury and passed unanimously.

Appearances

Dr. Molnar, Executive Director of Lower Savannah Council of Governments appeared to give updates and a report of the offerings to the county. He gave statistics on the various services, upcoming meetings and answered questions from Council.

Donnie Porth, Coroner, appeared before Council to give updates and spoke specifically about the criteria for autopsies. He gave statistics from last year and compared to the numbers so far this year. He also commended EMS for their contributions.

Resolutions

Presentation of a Resolution from the Calhoun County Planning Commission recommending the adoption of the updated zoning maps – This item as put on hold due to a late request to the zoning maps. A new recommendation will be made at an upcoming meeting.

Old Business

School District Autonomy – Administrator Hall has spoken to Senator Ott and while it would be too late to initiate for this session, there would be discussion on steps to proceed for the next.

Ordinances

Ordinance 2026-4 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AND THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 FOR THE OPERATION, DEBT SERVICE, BUILDING FUND AND FOOD SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF CALHOUN COUNTY, THE ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN TECHNICAL COLLEGE, AND THE CALHOUN COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD (INCLUDING THE L. MARION GRESSETTE CENTER); TO PROVIDE FOR DEPOSIT AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN CALHOUN COUNTY was presented for Second Reading. Councilman Westbury made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-4 and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2026-5 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF CALHOUN AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVYING OF TAXES AND FEES, AND FOR THE EXPENDITURE THEREOF; FOR COUNTY PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, AND DECLARING THAT THE SAME SHALL CONSTITUTE THE BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF CALHOUN FOR SUCH FISCAL YEAR; AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO was presented for Second Reading. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-5 and was seconded by Councilman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2026-6 AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE UPDATED ZONING MAP FOR CALHOUN COUNTY was put on hold, as the item is going back to the Planning Commission for revisions.

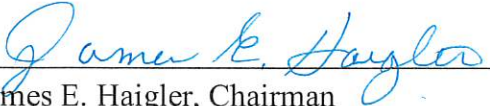
Administrator

Administrator Hall reminded of no second meeting in May, due to Memorial Day holiday and thanked the EMS staff for their hard work.

- Councilwoman Bonnette made remarks regarding the Red Rock Fire Station grand opening and thanked everyone involved.
- Vice-Chairman Thornton highlighted an issue of a convenience site closing early, which Administrator Hall said has been taken care of.

Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Thornton made a motion to adjourn with second by Councilman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.


James E. Haigler, Chairman


Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council